

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
March 15, 2013

PUD Commission Meeting Room
Dennis Nichols Building
Hoquiam, WA

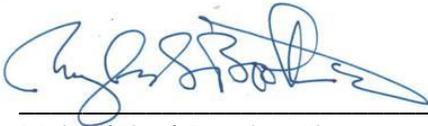
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Myles (Chip) Boothe, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Chip Boothe (WDOE, Chair), Brady Scott (WDNR, Vice Chair), Ellen Matheny (Education, Secretary), Rebecca Post (WDOE Alternate), Lee Whitford (Education Alternate), John Veentjer (Marine Business/Industry), Frank Holmes (Marine Business/Industry), CAPT Mike Gardiner (USCG), CDR Scott Stewart (USCG Alternate), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Nation Alternate), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large), Jody Kennedy (Tourism and Recreation), Les Bolton (Tourism and Recreation Alternate), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe Alternate), Heather Reed (WDFW), John Stadler (NMFS), Alan Rammer (MRC Alternate), Richard Carroll (Commercial Fishing Alternate), Jan Newton (Research), Sarah Creachbaum (ONP), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: Hugo Selbie (NOAA), Sara Gultinan (BOEM), Rene van Dorp, Jennifer Hennessey (WDOE), Justin Willig, Arnie Martin (Grays Harbor Audubon), Linda Orgel (Citizens for a Clean Harbor), Ian Miller, Washington SeaGrant (by phone)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Kevin Grant and Liam Antrim, (OCNMS), Dayna Matthews (NMFS)

Chip Boothe called meeting to order and outlined purpose and functions of the Advisory Council.

Adopt Agenda – the draft agenda was adopted without changes.

Approval of January 2013 Meeting Minutes - Rebecca Post recommended addition of a comment on unique properties of tar sand oil. John Veentjer provided a clarification on the vessel traffic risk assessment. ***Joe Schumacker made a motion to approve the January 2013 meeting minutes as modified; John Veentjer seconded; and unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining.*** A request was made for draft meeting minutes to be distributed in Word and pdf format to facilitate review and editing.

Site Evaluation List Support Letter – A letter was shared from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Director thanking the OCNMS AC for their letter in support of site evaluation list (SEL) reactivation. Carol noted that thus far 11 sanctuary advisory councils have passed resolutions supporting SEL reactivation. There are ongoing discussions within NOAA about how to respond. In the context of the current ONMS budget, new designations are likely far into future.

AC Membership - John Stadler from the National Marine Fisheries Service introduced himself as the new primary representative. Kevin Duffy will be the NMFS alternate. John works primarily on essential fish habitat issues.

The Conservation seat position was vacated with Sandra Brooke moving to Florida. Because the seat is open for recruitment, Carol asked Council members to provide her recommendations for the Conservation seat.

Moorings Working Group – Jan Newton provided a briefing on the July 2012 working group meeting and resulting recommendations, and explained how OCNMS mooring data is now available on the web and is being used by scientists. The working group considered the current mooring program configuration appropriate, but ideas for an expanded program were outlined, including additional instrumentation, year round deployment, and real-time data availability. A memo distributed to the council included the working group’s recommendations. John Mickett from University of Washington’s Applied Physics Lab is providing OCNMS with advice on mooring design for more secure deployments. Jan also announced the redeployment of the NANOOS Cha Ba buoy off LaPush in mid April. With no further comments provided by the AC or public in attendance, Jan recommended adjourning the working group. Carol noted these recommendations are valuable for securing funding for the mooring program, particularly from the West Coast sanctuaries regional office. Showing the data’s utility is critical for gaining funding support. Jan offered to provide additional information on how data is being used, if requested. ***Brady made a motion to endorse the working group report and forward recommendations in letter to the Sanctuary Superintendent; Rebecca seconded; and unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining.*** With acceptance of the final report, this working group was adjourned.

Data Management Working Group - Joe Schumacker and Jennifer Hagen (co-chairs) expressed interest in seeing continued progress toward making OCNMS data available, but acknowledged it may not be necessary for this working group to continue. The Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council may continue to pursue this issue and can help prioritize this work. Carol praised the success in getting OCNMS data available via the web and mentioned emerging challenges of recent staffing and budget reductions at OCNMS. Carol recommended periodic updates to the AC on data sharing progress. Jan mentioned the Puget Sound Partnership’s Environmental Monitoring Program, which publishes a document on current conditions. She will work with OCNMS staff to incorporate OCNMS data into these reports. No additional reporting from the working group was recommended. ***Joe Schumacker made a motion to accept the final report from the data management working group and adjourn the working group. Brady recommended a friendly amendment for OCNMS to continue staffing this data management effort and report progress annually to the council. Jan Newton***

seconded the motion. With no further discussion and no comment from public, unanimous support was voiced with no one opposed or abstaining. With acceptance of the final report, this working group was adjourned.

Implementation of 2013 AC Work Plan – An AC working group plan for 2013, distributed with the meeting packet, identifies new working groups, their purpose, staff lead, actions to date, and identified participants. Action was sought to create these working groups and solicit participation. Carol reviewed each working group for the Council.

Ocean Acidification Working Group (WG) - Carol's preference is to get this WG going soon. Jan noted the state's Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations are being considered now with projects and funding being developed. A center for ocean acidification studies will be established at the University of Washington. Heather Reed offered to join the WG. Kevin Grant, staff lead, will solicit Tom Mumford's involvement. Carol noted the first step is to develop a WG charter.

Tourism WG –Jody, Lee, Richard, Les, and Alan volunteered to participate. Les mentioned the Paddle to Taholah as an upcoming opportunity to improve networking connections with OCNMS.

Science WG – Carol outlined the purpose and noted these are major tasks. This WG will not convene until the fall of 2013 given other AC work and busy summer schedules. Volunteers include Jan, Tom, Rebecca, Bob B., Steve J., and Lee.

Young Adult Seat WG – significant discussion occurred in 2011 with the Charter WG. Ellen, Rebecca, Brady, and Alan volunteered to serve, and Carol will participate. Ellen asked for initial feedback from the Council. Rebecca suggested consulting with other councils on how existing seats are working. Brady suggested there may be alternatives to a council seat, such as identification options for youth or young adult involvement with the sanctuary or council.

Executive Committee – Brady noted this committee will need an additional member to help with review of Conservation seat candidates. Jody Kennedy is willing to help.

Chip thanked the Council for its guidance and those who volunteered to participate in working groups. He also noted that members of the public can participate in working groups.

Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment for Northern Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca – Chip introduced Rene van Dorp, from The George Washington University, who previously was involved with risk assessment at Cherry Point dock expansion. Rene is now collaborating with Dr. Jason Merrick from Virginia Commonwealth University on an update of that assessment with current information and in context of projects under development. Various related publications from Dr. van Dorp are available at

http://www.seas.gwu.edu/~dorpjr/tab4/publications_VTRA_Update.html. This study's defined focus is oil tankers, articulated tug barges, oil barges, container vessels and bulk carriers. The study area is divided into 15 modeling areas and includes the entirety of VTOSS system coverage, including the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, northern Puget Sound to Canada and Seattle to Olympia. This work models movement of vessels within these 15 areas, and data are summarized by #days/year, average number of vessels at any point in time and % of total time of exposure, and can be converted to density using correction for area. The analysis identifies sources of vessel accident risk and should be finished by August 2013. A demonstration of a model run simulation was provided.

Dr. van Dorp also provided a second presentation: Towards the Development of a Comprehensive Vessel Traffic Risk Management Tool. This model was developed in 1996 for a Prince William Sound Risk Assessment and has been applied in other areas. An accident was identified as an event sequence: situation, incident, accident to oil spill. Risk was evaluated by understanding various maritime situations, their likelihood of occurrence, and their consequences. With the risk management tool, one can evaluate various management actions, e.g., one-way zone (influences incidents), or escort requirements (influences accident probability), or double hull requirement (influences consequences). If risk mitigation of a given type is already implemented, there may be diminishing returns for further investments or actions, and it may be better to focus efforts where mitigations have not been implemented. In new models, they have incorporated a fishing seasons model, sailing regatta events and whale watching vessel traffic. Initial simulations provided only 4 incidents, which is not sufficient for risk analysis. Consequently, they asked the experts, various maritime professionals, survey questions around example scenarios with differing conditions to elicit which is more likely to result in an accident. Pooled responses can be used to evaluate or calculate relative comparison of risk of different scenarios. This presentation is available at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2013.html).

John Veentjer said the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee (PSHSC) web site has a link to Rene's studies at www.pshsc.org; click on the VTRA banner. Discussion occurs at Harbor Safety Committee meetings, which occur on the first Wednesday of even months. The goal is to define a suite of mitigation measures to reduce risk. The analysis stops with oil on the water and does not include fate and effects, which would introduce more uncertainty. The analysis does not include societal or local resident values. This was praised as a collaborative analysis approach, conducted in front of PSHSC with stakeholders present, to develop a common body of knowledge to support consensus on mitigations acceptable to all involved.

Public Comment - Linda Warball and Arnie Martin representing Citizens for a Clean Harbor (www.cch.org) spoke with concern about crude oil shipments through Grays Harbor (GH). Port

of Grays Harbor is planning three crude oil terminals to be supplied by long trains on the single track rail line, which will have significant impacts on local vehicle traffic. They also are concerned about impacts to natural resources and a regional ecological disaster resulting from a spill. In total, 98 million gallons of crude oil storage is planned for GH, to be exported in large tankers and articulated tank barges via the GH estuary destined for U.S. refineries. This will increase oil transport through OCNMS. Joe S. said Quinault Nation will be commenting in opposition to these projects. There is a March 27 presentation at Elma High School. Alan Rammer asked about planning for a large seismic event, which is being address through American Petroleum Institute standards for tanks which may not be relevant to earthquakes. All proposed tanks are in the tsunami inundation zone.

Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas – Sara Gultinan (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) introduced her agency, which manages mineral and conventional and renewal energy resources between 3 and 200 nmi offshore (except within national marine sanctuaries). BOEM is in pre-planning phases of ocean renewable energy projects, assembling baseline information, has been conducting seafloor mapping, as well as seabird and marine mammal surveys. Now BOEM is developing the ocean uses atlas and contracted NOAA for this work based on their experience with this process. Jennifer Hennessey (WA Department of Ecology) explained how this aligns with and supports state efforts at coastal marine spatial planning. Hugo Selbie (NOAA) explained they will be mapping a broad variety of human uses in ocean, where are the hot spots and special places to help predict where interactions and conflicts may occur between different uses. Workshops are scheduled in mid-April for Port Angeles and Aberdeen to solicit local knowledge and develop digital maps of area use of various types. Hugo explained how various expertise will be solicited and sought recommendations for knowledgeable people to attend these workshops. This presentation is available at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2013.html).

Climate Change Site Scenario for OCNMS – Ian Miller (Washington Sea Grant) joined via conference line to provide an update on the report and overview of results and conclusions. The report entitled “Climate Change and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary: Interpreting Potential Futures” is complete and now available for download at http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/conservation/cc_ocnms.html. Since the council update in September 2012, a new section on ecological responses was added to the outline, the section on responses of 11 groups of organisms was completed (Ian reviewed summary points), the adaptations framework was drafted, and the document has received extensive internal and external review. For ecological response, projecting the direction and magnitude is not possible due to significant uncertainty. Identified responses include potential shifts in community composition, competition and survival; altered timing of ecological events; non-native species interactions; and range shifts. Each section of the report includes a few bullet points to

summarize key findings. In the context of adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change, a goal is to reduce risk of harm. This report provides information on sensitivity of various organisms and identifies how they may be vulnerable. Adaptation measures, or actions designed to decrease vulnerability, will be discussed at the May council meeting. Carol said the sanctuary plans a press release to announce the report's publication. Ian's presentation is available at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2013.html.

Superintendents Report – Carol referenced the January-March Office Report which was distributed in hard copy at the meeting. She said the federal budget process remains challenging, with continued uncertainty about this year's budget and the difficulty of planning due to that uncertainty. Planning for the Misawa (Japan) dock salvage from the shore near Mosquito Creek is a collaboration, especially with the sanctuary, national park, refuges and NOAA' Marine Debris Program. The goal is to remove the dock to prevent remobilizing or release of foamed plastic to the environment. Funding has been secured from the Japanese government's gift money for tsunami debris cleanup, which was distributed to 5 U.S. Pacific Coast states plus British Columbia. Sanctuary and national park service funding was also provided. A local company, The Undersea Company from Port Townsend, has been contracted to cut the dock into pieces and fly it out for re-use and disposal. Federal observers will be on site during salvage operations.

Member Reports - Ellen Matheny mentioned a marine debris forum at ONRC in Forks on March 19, at which information on Japan tsunami debris will be shared and information solicited from the community.

Joe Schumacker mentioned the Washington's Working Coast report is recommended reading (see <http://www.onrc.washington.edu/MarinePrograms/WWC/Complete%20REPORT%20PHASE%201-%20WA's%20Working%20Coast.pdf>). Significant planning is ongoing for the Paddle to Taholah in early August. The Quinault expect perhaps 100 canoes, and have made connections with the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport to have tall ships participate.

Jody Kennedy announced the CoastSavers beach cleanup on April 20 and invited everyone to volunteer. Coastal marine spatial planning outreach events sponsored by outer coast marine resource committees as listening sessions in coastal communities are being planned.

Alan Rammer mentioned the abundance of salps that washed ashore in winter months and turned up in crab pots.

Chip asked that future agenda items ideas be sent to Liam.

The next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting is May 17 in Neah Bay.